notes by commercial banks, both private and public sector in spite of RBI's guidelines to accept soiled notes;

(b) whether Government are taking any steps so that henceforth the banks may dare to refuse soiled notes;

(c) whether Government are considering to impose corrective punishments against these banks who refuse to accept soiled notes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The bank notes are not devoid of the legal tender characteristics just because they are soiled. Inherently, the banks are obliged to accept them. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed the banks to sort the notes into issuable and non-issuable notes and supply only issuable/clean notes to the public. RBI has also exhorted the public, through media, to insist upon only clean notes from the banks.

RBI has been monitoring the implementation of the policy by the banks through regular inspections and incognito visits to the bank branches. In case of any violation of extant guidelines of RBI by a bank, appropriate regulatory action is taken by RBI.

Mobile banks in villages

†4357. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision has been taken to provide the facility of mobile banking in the villages;

(b) if so, since when the said decision has been implemented;

(c) the details of the villages of Chhattisgarh where this facility will be provided under the said scheme; and

(d) the details of actual beneficiaries of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.